

CURRENT COMMENT

BY FREDERIC HEATH.

Hatfield, governor of West Virginia, seems to be not quite as bad as he was painted, though had enough.

When capitalism has some particularly foul work to be done it turns government over to its military arm.

In Fortuna, Cal., the other day, all the elements united to beat the Socialist candidate for school trustee, a woman, but were united in defeat.

The attempt to break the will of Ellen Randolph of Vancouver, who left a bequest to the national Socialist party has failed and the party will receive the sum of \$455.66.

The radicals and the restless ones of the east settled the west in this country, and the restless ones of the west settled Alaska. It is therefore no surprise that Alaska is teeming with Socialism.

The eight hour bill introduced in the California legislature by the Socialist member was defeated by only four votes. The Socialists will invoke the state referendum law to force the measure to a vote of the people.

The Salt Lake federation of labor recently went on record for the idea of industrial organization in the labor field. Every little bit helps. It must be the unions themselves that get their form of organization right to meet the form of organization they must confront on the other side. The unions must free themselves.

The political power is the power that capitalism stands in greatest fear of. West Virginia has again shown it. The fear that labor and its Socialist spokesmen would be able to force congress to take a hand gave the mine owners and their governor the "shivering palsy" when it came to a final showdown. Capitalism knows the value of the political power. The great task is to get the workers to realize it.

The so-called Industrial Workers organization has become a rabble and an unmitigated disgrace to the cause of Labor. It can not have the support of any man with his eyes open who hopes for the coming of the co-operative commonwealth. Nay, more, it should have his opposition, since its antics are charged up to the Socialist movement and its anarchistic leaders miss no opportunity to seek to undermine the Socialist cause.

Less than twenty-four hours after Hatfield's militant talk about "the time for action having come and the time for words having passed," he had issued an order liberating the Socialist prisoners and was down off his high horse and assuring the three Socialist emissaries from the national committee that he was deeply interested in the welfare of his fellow men. Like the slimy things that crawl, the mine interests have a wholesale fear of publicity.

So many Socialists are aboard the yacht that the University of Pennsylvania is sending to explore the uncharted regions of the Amazon river that the Camden, N. J., Socialists presented the boat with a red banner bearing the hands clasped across the seas. At first there was despondency, but when a vote was taken of all those on board so many Socialist votes were recorded that the university authorities gave up their opposition. Score another for the Intercollegiate Socialist society!

Recent events again show how the Gompers and Mitchells have lost out in power and influence. Banqueting with plutes has lessened their usefulness to organized labor. The work they should have been doing to round out the victory of the striking miners in accursed West Virginia had to be done by Socialists. "Where's Sammy?" asked Grover Cleveland, playfully, at one of the Civic Federation gatherings. Gompers has become Sammy to the big capitalists and their politicians and they do not fear him any more.

It shocked a good many to learn that Charles P. Neill, U. S. Commissioner of Labor, who had made as good a record as could well be expected from a man from the other side, had given up his position and hired out to the smelter trust. It simply means that the trusts have the means to secure such talent as they need and that nearly every man on the capitalist

side has his price. Under Socialism the talents that now serve the big capitalists so faithfully will be employed by the state, i. e., the people, to serve them instead of a few lousy-rich individuals.

Job Harriman did not get on the ballot after all in Los Angeles, but the aldermanic and school board candidates are most of them in the running and will doubtless make a good showing in the election. The best way, after all, is to grow from the ground up. A good Socialist aldermanic minority will prepare the soil for a sweep of the city later on. The Milwaukee Social-Democrats had years of preparation in aldermanic work before they carried the city, and even then there was a feeling that the capture of the administrative powers was coming a trifle prematurely. The right way is the best way.

A Socialist who gets out of the habit of showing Socialist reading matter at the people on any and every occasion is a Socialist who has begun to die out. No place like a Socialist newspaper office to see what part of the movement really moves. The man in the office can tell you just where the work is being done round the country and just who the real Socialists are, with unerring accuracy. And such an office is a Socialist barometer. From its orders it knows in advance how tense the Socialist atmosphere is going to be in a given locality. When an order comes from a certain town for a bundle of propaganda pamphlets it is a sure weather sign that the people in that locality are going to catch it, and that Socialism is going to be shot into several more brains. The Socialist war-horses, who are they? Not the loud fellows who pose and hunt the lime-light and then fade away, but the steadygoing, almost silent workers who will not let up on their neighbors and whose minds are on Socialism rather than on self.

According to the official reports the penitentiaries of Canada contain 1,895 convicts, and of these over half are members of the Catholic churches. Pretty much the same sort of situation is found in every nation. Of the entire number in the Canadian prisons 14 admitted to no religious belief at all, all the others belonging to the churches. What this really shows is that the forces for evil in our present day society are too strong for the sects to overcome amongst their own members. So far as the convicts go the churches are failures under the capitalist system, and will have to turn to Socialism if they really have the good of mankind at heart. Under capitalism the temptations are in the direction of evil, since to a large extent evil pays. Under Socialism the temptations would be toward goodness—the incentives to criminality would be gone when men could live in wholesomeness and abundance as a result of their work, instead of the industrious class being the poor class as is the case today. Yes, capitalism is too

much for the churches, for the one that says the meanest things about Socialism and Socialists is the one that furnishes the most criminals under the capitalist system according to the prison statistics.

Nearly ten years ago Mother Jones was a prisoner in West Virginia. The Socialists at that time also let in the light and she finally went free, after one Judge Jackson had been pretty well introduced.

Scabbing workers is the term the Indiana Socialist applies to

in that state for education. All classes need it. Some must be educated into shame at inhuman labor conditions, and the miners' children must be brought within the ennobling influence of the American public school system, so that they may be the better rebels against inhuman exploitation when they grow up.

Scabbing workers is the term the Indiana Socialist applies to

people themselves rather than in the hands of capitalism, its interests and its puppets in executive office.

The other day a party of high officials arrived in Madison, Wis., where the state university is located as well as the state capitol, for the purpose of studying the university extension work. The "reform" mayor of Philadelphia headed the visitors, all of them

lature. It was, to my mind, the finest incident of the whole affair, a member of nature's nobility willing to overlook the starchiness of the visitors and tell them about Socialism. Meeting them as a man, not a fashion plate—the "man's the gold for a' that"—and I'll wager that in their hearts the visitors felt proud of the working-man legislator for appearing as a man and not a make-believe. In this connection it may be stated that members of the aforesaid legislature receive a salary of \$500 for their two years' term and that this hits workingmen members hard. As a result the Socialist members have rented a small house and live in community fashion, whilst taking their noonday meal between sessions at a "one minute" bash house. Not so many of the representatives of capitalism. For them there are the big hotels and in a few cases the gay life with the lobbyists. Such a situation is a shame to a state that makes some claims to standing for progress.

Another bomb has exploded in the camp, the Chicago camp, of the I. W. O. This time it is hurled by W. E. Trautmann, and is directed at the followers of Hynwood, Ertor, Elizabeth Gurley-Flynn-Jones and Vincent St. John, with whom Trautmann was a co-leader. He makes serious charges against the "free speech" fights of the organization, which he says "are pulled off by those who never will work, who will always be there when the general secretary and the general organizer calls for volunteers, to live upon the funds collected for the support of real militants and struggling toilers," and then declares that the funds at Lawrence were misappropriated and fished and that "a clear explanation can never be obtained by an appeal to the centralized official and publicity organs of the Industrial Workers." Of all the thousands of defense money that poured into Lawrence, he says, all but \$85 went to feed the idle, work-shunning louts who descended on that town, just as they descended on San Diego and Spokane and, recently, Denver. These migratory carrion scavengers are protected and screened by such side organs as Solidarity and the Industrial Worker of Spokane, and Trautmann further charges that nine separate charges were filed against the handlers of the Lawrence fund and were suppressed "by telegraphic order from the general offices of the Industrial Workers." Because we Socialists are firm believers in the industrial form of labor organization, preferably within the A. F. of L., practically the bulk of the Lawrence funds came from the pockets of the Socialists round the country, money that was diverted from the political organization to help the strikers, but the enthusiastic givers now have the pleasure of knowing that their money, outside of a pitiful \$85, went to support a lot of bums and slum proletarian strike parasites. It is a shame, and a much needed lesson.

That you may assist The Milwaukee Leader without making a donation. The Social-Democratic Publishing Company has issued Income Bonds in \$5 denominations. When The Leader is on a paying basis in a year of so from now you will receive interest at 6 percent on each Income Bond Subscribed. You may pay at the rate of \$1.00 a month for each \$5.00 bond you take. Send in your first \$1.00, your first \$2.00 or your first \$5.00 NOW, Comrade.

pendent upon us, not we upon them.

Now; Socialism would alter all this.

What Socialism Is.

It declares that the earth should be used for the whole people.

It declares that all wealth, that everything we need, is produced by labor.

It declares that industry should be organized and controlled in the interest of the whole people, not in the interest of a few.

It declares that each one that is physically and mentally able should do their part in the necessary work of the community.

It declares that for some to work hard and live poorly, and others to do no work and yet live richly, is a crime.

It declares that poverty need not exist.

What is there to be hostile to it this?

It can be done.

In fact, whether you like it or not, the change is coming. Come and help to make its coming quicker and easier for everyone. If you go on opposing Socialism, you'll be a back number.

Anyhow, what is there to oppose in it?

Don't You Want It?

You want to abolish poverty, do you not? Of course you do. Do you think it can be abolished while capitalism exists? Why, poverty, starvation, unemployment, hungry children, alms, disease, dangerous and poisonous occupations, squalor, rags, dirt, selfishness, have all been actually produced under capitalism. How is it possible to expect them to be abolished under the system that gave them birth?

No, my brothers. Join with us in demanding a complete revolution—the Social Revolution. Get over on to the workers' side. That's your camp. Don't scab any longer by backing up and supporting the master class, either by vote or otherwise.

Be for your own side all the time.

And if you are still hostile to Socialism, for goodness' sake try and understand what it is you are hostile to, and why you are hostile to it.

BROTHERS TO THE OX.

Since the dissolution of primitive communism, the mass of mankind has been scourged with unremitting toil. The common people have been driven from pillar to post for over 5,000 years with no joy, no comfort, no thrill save the solace of the grave. Like galley slaves we have worked and lived and like dogs we have died. Yea, we have been brothers to the ox.

Whatever justification our masters have had in the past, they have none now. Through invention and discovery, the race has harnessed nature and has made iron and steel and copper do its bidding. Tireless machines have increased the productivity of muscle power and unspeakable social wealth has replaced sordid poverty. Today the world is wonderfully rich but the people are woefully poor.

In order to correct this maladjustment; to bring social justice on the earth, the great Socialist movement has come with its zealous workers and its mighty press. All over the world earnest men and women are organizing, agitating and educating.

In America, the Socialist movement is forging ahead rapidly. It is reasonable to believe that Milwaukee's Socialist victories in the past have helped mightily to bring Socialism to the attention of the American people. It is safe to say that through the sacrifices and devotion of Milwaukee comrades, the Socialist movement in the country is 10 years further advanced than it would have been had there been no Socialist victories.

It is self-evident, therefore, that the Socialists of America owe a debt of gratitude to the brave, pioneer Socialists of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Socialists ask you, Comrade, to assist them, for only a short time, in maintaining the greatest Socialist newspaper on the western hemisphere. The Milwaukee Leader needs your help NOW.

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WISCONSIN SOCIALISTS ON TOP—OF THE CAPITOL AT MADISON



Snapshot of Our Party Members of the Legislature Taken on the Roof of the New Building, for the Social Democratic Herald.

Our camera men went to Madison last week and took a shot at the Socialists in the legislature. This week we append a few familiar pen points of some of them, and will consider Senator Zophy, and Assemblymen Zinn and Larsen later on.

Take a look at "Jimmy" and you will not for one moment put him in the class of the tenacious "scraper." His youthful face; his pleasing smile and general peaceful demeanor, however, belie the belligerent qualities that lie beneath the calm exterior. Jimmy is the regular little "caller" when anything pertaining to legislation that needs "calling" is brought before the notice of the assembly. He

is not an orator and his speeches are short, but they have the sting that demands consideration. Jimmy is a good diplomat.

James E. Vint is the Jimmy being discussed. He is the second youngest in the lower house. He was elected last fall from the Eighth Milwaukee district. He joined the Social-Democratic party a little more than 12 years ago. He is a machinist and has been active in affairs of the machinists' union, and has been elected to a number of offices in his local.

Vint was born in Hamilton, Ont., Jan. 13, 1881. He came to Milwaukee in 1891, where he has worked for some of the big machinery concerns of the city.

He is a member of the state affairs

and rules committee. He keeps a weather eye on all legislation concerning public utilities and is eager for a chance to sink a shaft of legislation in the vitals of any of the "big interests."

Any time any one wants to start an argument on the subject of capital and labor, all he has to do is to stroll over to the southeast corner of the assembly chamber and let loose a few remarks along that line in the presence of a good looking fellow who has a long, drooping moustache, a head that shows indications of not being on good terms with its hair, and keen blue eyes.

That man is a member of the So-

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duced to the American people as a creature on the bench of the mine owners, from Gassaway Davis down. Yet all this time, whilst the world has been making great strides, West Virginia has remained a depotism and kept up the unspeakable degradation of mine labor. Let this present day exposure not be transitory, let the people, now aroused, see that the lid is kept off for all time and that there is no halting in the campaign

soldiers, and it is so applicable that the phrase lingers in the mind. So long as the military remains under capitalist auspices so long will it be an anti-labor body. Socialists as a rule favor the Swiss system. They favor the complete arming of the people, as long as warfare is still possible in our "civilization," so that the preparedness for the defense of home and national institutions shall be in the control of the

from the keystone state. In the evening a reception was arranged in the assembly chamber in order to meet the legislative members, and the papers commented on the fact that one of the Socialist members, seemingly unconscious of a blue woolen shirt he wore mingled with the gay company, in earnest conversation first here and then there—for the visitors were especially interested in the Socialist representation in the Wisconsin legis-

WHY AREN'T YOU A SOCIALIST, BROTHER?

The following appeal to the workers is taken from Justice of London. Social-Democracy is international—an appeal to the workers of every other country to a T.)

WHAT I have never been able to understand, brothers, is your hostility to Socialism—the hostility of the workers—you.

If you don't understand what it is, then you ought not to be opposed to a thing you don't understand. It puts me in mind of the woman who was asked if she liked tomatoes. She said "No," and she said it emphatically, as if she meant it. A bright thought occurred to the questioner, "Have you ever tasted them?" he asked her. "No, I haven't; but I know I shouldn't like them."

Why are you opposed to Socialism? Why are you hostile? Do you know that through Socialism every one of you will live a happier life, that you will have better food and more of it; better houses to live in; better clothes to wear; better amusements and more time to enjoy them; aye, even prater air to breathe?

I could add to this list of good things, because the whole circumstances of our lives, from infancy to when we finish our earthly journey, will be so different, so much brighter, so superior in every respect, that to put them down would make a long list.

Now, you will admit that all this is worth having—if we could get it, of course. But you doubt the possibility of getting it. You scout the idea. Ridiculous! Bosh! It has always been like it. "Of course

we're hard up; but you Socialists won't make it any better. Oh, yes, I'm perfectly satisfied."

You Are Not Satisfied.

Now, my brothers, I want to tell you quite straight that whatever you might say, you are not satisfied; and that if you are, your wives are not. I have never yet met a woman who did not object to going short.

Oh, no, you are not satisfied. I don't care a rap what you say, you are not. And if you are—well, you ought to be jolly well ashamed of yourselves for being satisfied with poverty.

No. But at the back of your minds is the hopeless feeling that it can never be altered. That we are quite powerless to alter it, even if we wished. And so you simply go along, living out your mean, sordid lives, bringing up the boys and girls to live exactly the same

sort of hopeless existence—and that's all there is in it.

There's more in it than that. Let's go into it a bit; it's worth while.

No Need for Poverty.

Is there any need for anybody to be poor? We Socialists say, "No." We are the only ones who say "No" to this question. You, my brothers, through your ignorance, and the "upper" classes, through their knowledge, both say there must be poor. We are the only ones who say there need be no poor.

Do you think it is possible, with the wonderful machinery and inventions, and scientific knowledge we now have, to produce enough food and clothing for everyone? You do. Do you think there's enough labor to build better houses for everyone? Eh, you're in the building line, and there are lots of men out of work? Oh, well that

question is soon answered. In short, do you agree that it is possible to supply all our needs. Now, never mind about where's the money to come from. Do you agree it is possible? Yes. That's right. You couldn't very well answer differently.

Why?

Well, why don't we produce enough, and have enough? Ah, you say, that's the point. It is the point.

The reason we don't is because we allow other people to decide how much shall be produced, and how much of it shall come to us. (Precious little, you say? Quite right.) A condition of things has grown up whereby a small number of folk, with plenty of money and all the land, have obtained control of the whole industry of the country. Quite naturally they desire more and more riches. And so

they run the whole machine so as to get as much profit as they can.

They can only get that profit, my brothers, if we labor and produce it for them. There is no other way. Once upon a time they used to make us believe their riches were due to their cleverness. But that has all been knocked on the head, hasn't it? You remember the miners' strike and the railwaymen's strike. When the miners left off working there were no profits being earned—nothing. When the railwaymen stopped working no trains could run, and if no trains ran no dividends came along.

This applies to every description of industry, without exception. Always has applied. But we have been so confoundedly ignorant, and been so servile to our "betters," that we haven't dared to be men and women. We have been content to be the working class—inferior creatures.

You, my brothers, have been trained—to believe that you are dependent upon them for your living, that you could not live without the employers. It is just the other way round. They are dependent upon us—absolutely dependent. They could not have a single thing if we did not work and produce it for them. The best food, the best clothes, fine linen, plate, jewelry, fine large houses (larger than ours, my brothers), country mansions, carriages, motor-cars—not a single one of these things could they have if we did not provide them by our labor.

You see, they are absolutely de-

HATFIELD COMES OFF HIS PERCH!

CHARLESTON, W. Va.—"Sing 'em and jig 'em!" That is the new motto suggested for the coat of arms of the sovereign state of West Virginia by Eugene V. Debs.

The veteran Socialist, who is again back in the blackest spot on the United States fighting for the rights of the rising workers, feels that that is the slogan that ought to float over the Duchy of Eklins-Davis, until present conditions have been radically changed in favor of the working class.

When wage slavery has been abolished and the last bit of feudalism driven from the state, then it is considered early enough to restore the present state motto—"Montani Semper Liberi"—meaning "Mountaineers are always free men."

The reigning policy in West Vir-

ginia at the present time," declares Debs, who has come to the state to investigate conditions in the Kanawha war zone as the special ambassador of the Socialist party, "is to drive all union men from the state and to beat up, jail and imprison the organizers of labor. For that reason the motto of 'Sing 'em and jig 'em' would be especially appropriate."

Debs' last visit to the state was during the presidential campaign of last fall when he spoke in this city in spite of the refusal of the authorities to permit the Socialists to use a hall and in the face of efforts to stop the meeting altogether.

The coal owners of West Virginia have heard of Debs before. As long ago as August, 1897, he invaded the state and was met with the fiercest

labor injunction ever issued, this form of judicial tyranny at that time blossoming into popularity with the rulers of West Virginia.

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LATEST.

CHARLESTON, W. Va.—Governor Hatfield completely revised all previous attitudes of defiance toward the Socialist investigating committee here today. After a two hours' conference, the Social-Democrats were promised that every effort would be made to relieve present conditions and no objections were raised to the contin-

(Continued to 4th page.)

FIGHT THE TRUST

tions. Send no money, but write har today if your children trouble you in this way. Don't blame the child, the chances are it can't help it. This treatment also cures adalls and aged people troubled with urine difficulties by day or night.

adv.

